(c) whether Government have chalked out a strategy with suitable technological support at policy making and implementation stages and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) Agricultural commodities identified for export promotion and details of estimates worked out commodity wise during the Eighth Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) Government has taken various steps to create a policy environment in order to boost exports of agricultural products from the country including processed items. Such measures include : (i) extension of Liberalised Exchange Rate Management Scheme facility, (ii) introduction of a unified exchange rate; (iii) defining agricultural activity as a manufacturing activity in the Import-Export Policy; (iv) doing away with compulsory pre-shipment inspection on the export of agricultural and food products subject to certain conditions; (v) lowering of customs duties on capital goods required for agro-exports sector. Apart from the above measures, various Boards and Authorities participate in exhibitions abroad and buyer-seller meets to have inter-action with importers in other countries with a view to promoting export of Indian goods. Besides, the Boards/Authorities help producers in improving production and productivity of their produce, help in promoting brand names of Indian Products for improving export efforts. However, it is the policy of the Government to promote the export of agricultural commodities in such a manner that domestic availability of items of mass consumption is not affected.

The target fixed for being achieved by the end of the Eighth Plan period (1996-97) for agricultural commodities export is Rs. 6519 crores at 1991-92 prices.

Agricultural commodities cover a wide spectrum of items like spices, cashew, tobacco, fruits and vegetables, etc. These are in demand in varying degrees in different countries. Europe, USA and West Asia are the major markets for India's agricultural commodities.

भारत में पुस्तकों का आयात और निर्यात

@@@3294. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या **वाणिज्य मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारत से किन-किन देशों को और कितने मूल्य की पुस्तकों का निर्यात किया गया है; और

(ख) उक्त अवधि के दौरान भारत में किन-किन देशों से और कितने मूल्य की पुस्तकों का आयात किया गया है ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) पिछले तीन वर्ष के दौरान भारतीय पुस्तकों एवं प्रकाशनों का निर्यात निम्नानुसार रहा ।

(करोड़ रुपए में)

वर्ष	निर्यात
1989–90	30.00
1990–91	33.00
1991–92	41.50 (अनुमानित)

@@@पूर्वत: अतारांकित प्रश्न 2218, 12 मार्च, 1993 मे स्थानान्तरित ।

भारतीय पुस्तकों एवं प्रकाशनों के प्रमुख आयातक देश ब्रिटेन, संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका, बंगलादेश, जर्मनी, यू० ए० ई०, श्री लंका, सऊदी अरब, ओमान, नीदरलैंड, नेपाल, जापान, पाकिस्तान, केन्या आदि हैं ।

(ख) पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान भारत में पुस्तकों एवं प्रकाशनों के आयात के आंकड़े दिए गये हैं :

(करोड़ रुपये में)

वर्ष	आयात
1989–90	77.95
1990–91	86.70
1991–92	68.48

भारत में पुस्तकों एवं प्रकाशनों का अधिकांश आयात ब्रिटेन, संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका, सिंगापुर, जर्मनी और हांगकांग से किया जाता है ।

स्रोत : रसायन एवं सम्बद्ध उत्पादन निर्यात संवर्धन परिषद् (कैपेक्सिल,) कलकत्ता ।

Agreement between India and European Countries

£3295. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India and the European Community have entered into a new co-operation agreement recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that the European Community has given India a status that it accords to industrialised countries ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Official level negotiations on a new Cooperation Agreement between India and the EEC have concluded. A draft text is awaiting approval of Government of India and the European Council. The new Agreement seeks to broaden the scope for cooperation to cover a wide range of subjects.

(c) The draft Agreement has been framed in the overall context of the European Community's relations with developing countries.

Declaring Tuticorin Port as Free Port

££ 3296. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to declare Tuticorin Port as a free port; and

(b) if so, what are the steps being taken to improve the facilities in Tuticorin port to attract more foreign ships ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Free Port Advisory Committee on which inter-ministerial consultation is underway, has recomended the location of the Free Port in Goa. Tuticorin has been suggested only as a suitable site for second Free Port on the east coast.

£Previously Unstarred Question 2686, transferred from 17th March, 1993.

££Previously Unstarred Question 2889, transferred from 17th March, 1993.